

**Next Meeting: April 5, 2006**  
**10:00 a.m. – Michigan Education Association**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of March 1, 2006 Meeting  
10:00 a.m.

Present: Susan Backman, Mike Beach, Julie Daggett-Lawrence (for Patricia Keller), Cheryl Ervin, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Donna Herrle, Elaine High, Robert Hove, Linda Keway (for Ric Hogerheide), Dara Knill, Jim Kubaiko, Paul Kubicek, Susan Peters, Sue Rabidoux (for Gloria Anderson), Chuck Saur, Jeff Siegel, Richard Spring, Barbara Stork, Deb Todd, Colette Ward, Julie Winkelstern, Michael Yocum  
Ex-Officio Members: Tara Baker (for Lynn Boza), Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Cindy Anderson, Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Lynn Boza, Patt Clement, Sheri Falvay, Mark Larson, Lee Martin, Jerry Oermann, David Overly, Anne Richardson, Michele Robinson, Julie Shore, Jan VanGasse

OSE/EIS Staff: Kathy Barker, Sheryl Diamond, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich

Guests: Sandi Laham

Vice Chairperson Colette Ward called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the March 1, 2006 meeting was considered. Hearing no amendments, the agenda was approved.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the February 1, 2006 meeting were considered. Hearing no amendments, the minutes were approved.

## Public Comment

None

## Member Issues

Deb Todd mentioned a recently published incident at the state-operated Mount Pleasant Center. There was a 30-year-old autistic man housed there who died last May and his death was just ruled a homicide. Community Mental Health (CMH) sends people with behavioral issues to the facility. Deb wanted to make the committee aware of the situation.

Jeff Siegel requested the executive committee examine and test the possibility of using videoconferencing in future SEAC meetings.

## Chairperson's Report – Colette Ward

### A. Alternates

Alternate Sue Rabidoux will represent the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHLA) and alternate Julie Daggett-Lawrence will represent the Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education (CAUSE) for the remainder of the year.

### B. Executive committee elections

SEAC delegates may submit any remaining ballots to Amanda Whitehead today before lunch. An ad hoc committee will then count the ballots and election results will be announced during subcommittee meetings today.

## State Reports – Jacquelyn Thompson

### A. State Board of Education Meeting

Jacquelyn Thompson anticipates a discussion about the revised Supporting Student Behavior: Standards for the Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint to be a discussion item on March 14. It was revised at the direction of the SBE based on a presentation made in October. The document is intended to apply to all students, not just special education students.

### B. IDEIA 2004 Implementation Activities

Fran Loose reported that a state-wide high school conference will be held at Dearborn High School on May 26, 2006. There will be a national keynote speaker, but the remainder of the presentations will cover what is happening in Michigan. Dan Wilson from the Michigan Department of Education is on the planning committee for this event. Additional information on this meeting will be shared with the SEAC in the near future. In addition, the

Office of School Improvement (OSI) will rollout the school improvement framework on April 27, 2006.

SEAC members should expect to receive an electronic invitation for Reach and Teach for Learning around March 10, 2006. Reach and Teach for Learning is one branch of the next iteration of the IDEA Partnership. The Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS) is cosponsoring the effort with a number of other groups. Twelve middle school or high school building teams will be invited to participate. The first meeting will be held either July 11-12 or July 12-13 and will address what are issues involved in reaching children. On day one, a speaker from Ohio will focus on children of poverty. Day two will feature Larry Gloeckler, who will speak on how buildings can work with data. SEAC members are encouraged to share the invitation and application with interested colleagues. Meeting dates for the remainder of the school year will be determined by those participating at that first meeting.

Jacquelyn reported that Department staff is crafting and integrating activities relative to the State Performance Plan (SPP). Kathy Barker will attend the SEAC meeting next month to continue helping the SEAC gain additional understanding of SPP indicators.

Cheryl Ervin mentioned that she attended a meeting in Washington DC for the Michigan Education Association (MEA) where Response to Intervention (RTI) and Universal Design for Learning were discussed. She wondered what these programs were and if they are in place in Michigan. Jacquelyn responded that RTI is a tiered intervention model focused on ongoing student progress monitoring. There is a statewide initiative called the Michigan Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi), a researched-based model that is in its third year. There are very promising outcomes coming out of the model. Jacquelyn would be glad to schedule a presentation on MiBLSi if the SEAC would like further discussion. Universal Design is the idea of crafting something that works for everybody. Universal Design for Instruction focuses heavily on multiple approaches to instruction, use of assistive technology, and multiple formats for accessing information. Michigan's Assistive Technology Resource (MATR) focuses on assistive technology that is both high-tech and low-tech. This initiative is presently being refocused on Universal Design for Learning. A presentation on this subject can also be arranged if the SEAC is interested. Discussion followed.

#### Ex-Officio Reports

*Institutions of Higher Education* – Mark Larson – None

*Michigan Department of Community Health* – Sheri Falvay – None

*Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth/Rehabilitation Services* – Lynn Boza – None

*Department of Human Services – Lee Martin – None*

*Michigan Department of Corrections – Michele Robinson – None*

### Committee Reports

#### A. High School Transformation – Deb Todd

In preparation for the February subcommittee meeting, Bob Hove read the Cherry Commission Report and wrote a summary. Deb Todd shared highlights from that summary and the group's discussion of the summary at last month's meeting. The first section of the Daggett DVD will be shown over lunch today.

#### B. Post-Secondary Outcomes – Chuck Saur

Chuck Saur reported that it was decided in February that the subcommittee needed someone from the Transition Outcomes Project (TOPs) to talk with the group. In the meantime, Chuck was added to the TOPs, so that need is fulfilled. TOPs meets weekly while the SEAC meets monthly, so Chuck will update the group today on TOPs activities.

#### C. Suspension/Expulsion – Paul Kubicek

Kathy Barker presented last month on the suspension and expulsion SPP indicators and then attended the subcommittee's meeting to provide additional information and exchange. Paul Kubicek reported that toward the end of the meeting, a rough draft of a narrative on contributing factors to suspension/expulsion rates was composed.

### Information Items

None

### Action Items

#### A. Recommend additional organizations for the membership of SEAC

Paul Kubicek moved that SEAC increase its representation by adding the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) and the Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (MASCD).  
Deb Todd seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### Member Announcements

Richard Spring announced that next week is School Social Work week.

## SEAC Learning: State Performance Plan Indicator Education – Kathy Barker

### A. Indicator 5, Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Settings

Kathy Barker explained that this focus of this indicator is 6- to 21-year-olds. Three areas are examined: how many special education students are removed from regular class less than 21% of the day; how many are removed more than 60% of the day; and the percentage of students served in separate facilities. Baseline data shows near stability for the 2002-03 and 2003-04 school years. Fran pointed out that targets set for 2005-06 are minimal because implementation of this indicator didn't begin until well into the school year. More aggressive targets will be set for future years. Chuck Saur asked what the next steps are. Kathy responded that shared learning is a goal; to build an infrastructure where ISDs that are successful can help those that are struggling. Discussion followed.

### B. Indicators 9 and 10, Disproportionality

Kathy explained that disproportionality is an uncomfortable subject to discuss. Indicator 9 is about who receives services and where they receive services. Are there certain ethnicities that are over-identified or over-placed in special education? For example, African-American males in Michigan are disproportionately labeled as cognitively impaired. Indicator 10 is about whether specific racial and ethnic groups are overrepresented in any specific disability categories. A three-prong approach is used to examine this issue: weighted risk ratios, data verification, and data analysis. This approach is likely to shift, change, and mature with time. When disproportionality is found in a district, a public report is given to that district's school board. The challenge at the state level then becomes how to support the district in the process of change rather than presenting the report and leaving the district to deal with the aftermath alone. The National Center for Culturally Response Educational Systems (NCCRESt) rubric for assessment will be used to determine where disproportionality exists. Wayne State University will analyze the data so that results are independent and unbiased.

Kathy explained that it's not any one thing that makes a student eligible for special education services. Identified students don't always meet all the requirements set up by the district because the IEP team ultimately determines the identification. Discussion followed. Additional information will be available after the data from December 2005 is analyzed. Michael Yocum asked if the Department is looking at whether there is disproportionality based only on ethnicity and race or if socio-economic status is also examined. Kathy responded that during the pilot year of the Continuous Improvement Monitoring System (CIMS), a district was discovered with disproportionality issues related to poverty and expectations of family and community. The issue is deeply rooted in community dynamics; things are interwoven, so changing one thing affects another, which affects another. There is no "easy fix."

### Future Agenda Consideration

Indicators 1 and 2 on graduation and dropout will be presented by Kathy in April.

### Process Check – Chuck Saur

Richard Spring stated that the information the SEAC receives is important, but he wondered how delegates can make certain that the communication doesn't end with the group hearing it at the monthly meetings. Chuck stated that a one-page notes sheet on each indicator was suggested in an executive committee meeting a couple of months earlier. Jacquelyn confirmed that it's a good idea but it would take some time to complete such a product. Cheryl Ervin stated that her subcommittee was struggling with whether they needed to have a document to send to the State Board of Education by the end of this year. Sandi Laham responded that the focus this year has been primarily education with regard to the degree of change that is taking place in the state. Not to minimize the subcommittee work, but at this point, it is difficult to say what product the subcommittees will be able to produce by year's end. Jim Kubaiko mentioned that despite the diversity of the group, the SEAC doesn't know everything that's going on in local districts. Discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned to subcommittees.

Amanda Whitehead  
Recording Secretary

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Executive Committee  
Minutes of March 1, 2006 Meeting  
8:45 a.m.

Present: Sheryl Diamond, Paul Kubicek, Sandi Laham, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Chuck Saur, Jacquelyn Thompson, Deb Todd, Colette Ward

Absent: Patt Clement, Ric Hogerheide, Patricia Keller

### Review of Today's Agenda

Kathy Barker will present on three indicators from the State Performance Plan (SPP): indicator 5 on least restrictive environment (LRE) settings and indicators 9 and 10 on disproportionality.

There is an action item recommending additional organizations for the membership of the SEAC to fill the last two seats added by the legislation passed in the fall.

Chuck Saur will do today's process check as well as integrate a request for all SEAC members to complete evaluations.

### State Department Report

Jacquelyn Thompson asked Fran Loose to report on the high school transformation conference hosted by the Michigan Department of Education on May 26, 2006. Jacquelyn will report that the seclusion and restraint document will likely be discussed at the State Board of Education meeting on March 14. It will go as an information item, not an action item.

### Subcommittee Reports

#### A. High School Transformation – Deb Todd

Last month, the subcommittee discussed Robert Hove's summary of the Cherry Commission Report. Deb Todd will go over the highlights of the discussion. She will also mention that the Daggett DVD would be available for viewing during lunch.

#### B. Post-Secondary Outcomes – Chuck Saur

The subcommittee discussed the need to have someone from the Transition Outcomes Project (TOP) talk with the subcommittee about indicators 13 and 14. Since that conversation, Chuck Saur was added to the TOP, so that need is now filled. To that end, today Chuck will outline what is happening with the TOP. Some interest was expressed in clearing

the way for collaboration between agencies responsible for indicator 14 outcomes.

#### C. Suspension/Expulsion – Paul Kubicek

The subcommittee composed a rough draft of a narrative on contributing factors to suspension/expulsion rates. Bob Harris and Leisa Gallagher will meet with the subcommittee today as suggested in last month's meeting. Paul Kubicek wondered how to integrate subcommittee work into a report to the State Board of Education. The group concluded that it is probably too early in the process to determine if a joint product would be appropriate or complete by the end of the school year.

#### Future Agenda Development

Kathy Barker will present on SPP indicators 1 and 2 on graduation and dropout at the April meeting.

Mike Flanagan is scheduled to present to the SEAC at the May meeting. Jacquelyn will confirm with his scheduler that arrangements are still in place.

#### Other Issues

The results of the 2006-07 executive committee elections will be available today. Delegates may submit outstanding ballots to Amanda Whitehead prior to lunch. An ad hoc committee will count the ballots during lunch. Members of the ad hoc committee will announce the election results to the subcommittees this afternoon. Amanda will also email election results to the listserv.

Colette Ward received notice that Pat Keller is no longer working at CAUSE. Julie Daggett-Lawrence, the current alternate, will attend meetings for the remainder of the year. According to the SEAC bylaws, the Chairperson must appoint a replacement for Pat on the executive committee. Sandi Laham suggested waiting until the executive committee ballots are counted this afternoon and choose a replacement from the newly elected 2006-07 executive committee. Colette will make mention of both Julie attending on behalf of CAUSE and Sue Rabidoux attending on behalf of the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSLHA).

The executive committee examined the list of subcommittee needs comprised earlier in the year and determined that all expressed needs have been met.

The "What it Means to be on the Exec" document comprised by Deb and Amanda was approved by the executive committee and will be sent to the SEAC listserv.

The executive committee will debrief following today's subcommittee meetings.